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Date: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

[www.visitation.ealing.sch.uk](http://www.visitation.ealing.sch.uk)

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### Reflection

At the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain, one of Britain's athletes – Derek Redmond – was running in the semi-final of the 400 metre race. As he rounded the curve he could see the finishing line. Suddenly a very sharp pain in the back of his leg caused him to collapse on the racetrack. It was a torn hamstring.

Medical people ran towards him, but Derek Redmond struggled to his feet and started hopping on one leg. He was determined to finish the race, even though he was in great pain and the other runners had passed the finishing line. As he got a few metres down the track, a man came out of the stands and ran past a security guard onto the track. It was Jim Redmond, Derek's father. "You don't have to do this", he told his son. "Yes I do", said the athlete. "Well then, we'll finish it together," said his father.

With his arm around his father's neck, Derek hopped around the rest of his lane to the finishing line. By this time the people in the crowd were on their feet, clapping for the courage and the spirit both of Derek Redmond and of his father.

### Let us pray;

In times of difficulty Lord, may we support others with the same care and concern as we would like to experience ourselves. **Amen**

I'm not entirely sure why, but I was really touched by today's reflection. Maybe it was the courage of the son, the love of the father or even the memory of seeing Alistair Brownlee help his brother Jonny across the finish line in the 2016 Marathon in Mexico. These simple acts of love can really tug at the heartstrings.

I see this love every morning in the children who kiss their siblings goodbye at the gate, the embrace of a parent, the friends that walk into school hand in hand or help each other carry their books. I see the courage of those children a little unsure about separating from a parent or the child bravely walking away from the gate because they cannot come to school today.

The love of the father reminds us, as Fr Liam did in his Sermon on Tuesday, that God our Father loves us always and forever no matter what we do or when we may forget to turn to him.

In this time of uncertainty let us all turn to God our Father. We ask him to guide us, to watch over us and to keep us safe wherever we go. We pray that the six week holiday will revive and invigorate us, ready to start a new term together, as a whole school, united once more.

**END OF YEAR MASS:** A huge thank you to the Parish Community for preparing the Church so that we could celebrate the end of year Mass with year six. The Church was spotlessly cleaned and disinfected. Thank you to everyone who helped prepare the Mass, those at school and in the Parish. A special thank you goes to Fr Liam for celebrating the Mass with us and for wise words that the children can take with them to high school.

Well done to Miss Parillon, Mr Cooke, Mrs Verity and Mr O'Connell who have taught the children since their return to school and have made sure that they have worked hard but also had fun experiences so that their last weeks in school have been memorable.

Finally well done to all the amazing year 6 pupils. They have exceeded our highest expectations in the way they have conducted themselves in the past year, and especially in the last few weeks. They have grown physically and emotionally and are ready for the next steps in their learning. You make us very proud!

Good luck to all the year 6 pupils and parents/carers who will be leaving us today. There are a few other pupils who have also left the school this term, to go back home to their country of origin or because they are moving to another area. I would like to wish you and your families all the very best for the future.

**THE SUMMER TERM** has been like no other we have ever experienced, or wish to experience again. It has taught us many things, the biggest lesson of all is appreciation. I would like to offer my appreciation to all the staff who work tirelessly to make the school the place it is. We only do what we do because we do it together.

I have been **OVERWHELMED** by the generosity of the parents. You have certainly shown us how much you appreciate us. My house looks like a florist and I will be eating chocolate until Christmas. I have been so humbled by the many gifts and good wishes that you have shared. I am truly very grateful.

**THE QUEEN'S TEA PARTY:** Yesterday year 1 celebrated the end of the year with a tea party for the Queen. Unfortunately the Queen could not attend as she is shielding!



Children at home also took part. Well done to everyone. Your crowns and bunting are amazing.



**SPORTS AWARDS:** The children in year 6 received their end of year sports awards this week. Well done to the following children who excelled in their field.

**PEAL SHIELD FOOTBALL**

Shyra Charles & Eddie Bell

**PEAL SHIELD NETBALL**

Thajinsiya Jeenedison & Henry Burke

**DAILY MILE AWARD**

Chloe Bugbee

**VIRTUAL SCHOOL GAMES HOCKEY**

Chloe Shaw

**VIRTUAL SCHOOL GAMES RUNNING**

Dani Gorges

**SWIMMING**

Izabela Evans

A huge thank you to Mrs Bell who works tirelessly to ensure our children get to take part in all sports competitions and games within Ealing and some across London. She has worked to make sure that sport in our school is **OUTSTANDING.**



**REOPENING IN SEPTEMBER:** On Wednesday we sent out some guidelines for September including staggered start and finish times. These are important so that we do not have 300 parents waiting for the gate to open at 3.30pm. However if the finish time is earlier than normal and you cannot manage this due to work please let us know and we will work something out with you. We are also working on how to manage sibling collection so that parents do not have to stand around waiting. More information will be provided before the beginning of the school term.

**DIARY DATES:** We would normally send out diary dates at this time of year. However until we have more guidance we will not be able to host any meetings or gatherings in the school. We look forward to a time when these can resume.

**GOODBYE:** I would like to thank Miss Franey and Mrs Cliff who are leaving us today. They both stepped in when we needed teachers last September and have worked tirelessly for the school and the children. We wish them the very best for their next steps along the way. They will be missed.

May God keep you safe in the palm of his hands!



*Miss K. Coll / Headteacher*

# Our Lady of the Visitation Church

<https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/greenford/>

search: *'Visitation Church Greenford'*

Following the message from Cardinal Vincent last weekend, we are preparing to celebrate Masses where a congregation is present, from Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July. We would ask you to please bear with us as we take this important step. The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday is suspended until further notice, you can attend any Mass in person, or online if you are unable to leave the house.

**If you are in any of the "at risk" groups, please STAY HOME.**

Mass will still be celebrated at 12.00 noon every day and shown live on the internet. *Please note:* that you **do not** have to sign up for Facebook, you simply go to the parish website (search: *'Visitation Church Greenford'*) and follow the links.

## Weekend Masses

Saturday 12.00 noon and 7.00 pm

Sunday 8.00 am, 10.00 am and 12.00 noon

Sadly, there will be NO congregational singing.

Daily Mass at 12.00 noon will be also shown live on the Internet (via Facebook)

**Each day the church will be open for private prayer and Mass from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm.**

We will still have to observe social distancing advice (1 metre +)  
and the **wearing of face coverings is compulsory.**

**Toilet facilities will not be available.**

The three most important rules are:

1. Safety
2. Safety
3. Safety

Planned Giving envelopes will be available in the Old Church Hall after all the weekend Masses.